

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending in the application. This amendment amends claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-8, and cancels claims 2, 5, and 9. As a result, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, and 10-16 are now pending. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's determination that claim 9 recites allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite features of claim 9 and intervening claims 2, 5, and 8.

Claim rejections: 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,514,599 to Yanagishima et al.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,347,335 to Watters et al.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,025,474 to Tanaka.

In response, Applicants ask the Examiner to reconsider the rejections. Claim 1 is allowable because it has been amended to include the features recited in former claim 9. The other rejected claims all depend ultimately from allowable claim 1 and therefore are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim rejections: 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

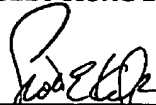
Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagishima or Watters or Tanaka.

In response, Applicants ask the Examiner to reconsider the rejections. Claims 3 and 16 depend from allowable claim 1 and therefore are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Agent Scott Kamholz at 617-832-1176 or the group telephone number listed below to discuss any matter relating to this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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